

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 DOEE-00  
/074 W

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O 120548Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4726  
THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 00181

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MNUC, NZ, US  
SUBJECT: ROWLING TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER REGARDING  
NUCLEAR SUBMARINE VISIT

1. OPPOSITION LEADER, W.E. ROWLING (NZ LABOUR PARTY),  
HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY A COPY OF THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM  
WHICH HE IS SENDING TO PRESIDENT CARTER:

"AS LEADER OF THE NEW ZEALAND LABOUR PARTY AND  
PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU MY  
CONCERN AND THAT OF MANY OTHER NEW ZEALANDERS AT THE  
IMMINENT VISIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINE PINTADO TO  
A NEW ZEALAND PORT STOP IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SUCH A  
VISIT HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY FOR OVER A DECADE AND THE  
DEPTH OF FEELING OF SO MANY PEOPLE HERE ON THIS ISSUE  
THIS ACTION LEADS TO UNNECESSARY EROSION OF THE GOODWILL  
BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES STOP I URGE YOU TO REQUEST YOUR  
ADVISORS TO SEEK MORE ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF CEMENTING  
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THE LINKS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. W.E. ROWLING"

2. ROWLING ALSO HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT  
TO THE NZ NEWS MEDIA, EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 0600,  
JANUARY 13, LOCAL TIME (1200 EST, JANUARY 12):

"THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. ROWLING, HAS SENT A

CABLE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PROTESTING  
AT THE IMMINENT VISIT OF THE NUCLEAR POWERED  
SUBMARINE, PINTADO.

"IN THE CABLE, MR. ROWLING SAID HIS OWN DEEP CONCERN AT  
THE VISIT IS SHARED BY A GREAT MANY NEW ZEALANDERS. HE  
POINTS OUT THAT SUCH A VISIT HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY FOR  
OVER A DECADE, AND THAT THE ANTAGONISM AROUSED IN NEW  
ZEALAND CAN ONLY WEAKEN THE GOODWILL BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND  
AND THE UNITED STATES.

" 'I WANT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ADVISERS TO BE IN NO  
DOUBT THAT MANY NEW ZEALANDERS ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO  
THIS VISIT,' MR. ROWLING SAID IN A STATEMENT. 'AFTER  
THE WIDESPREAD PROTESTS OVER THE VISITS OF TWO NUCLEAR  
SHIPS IN 1976, I HAD HOPED THAT THE MESSAGE WOULD HAVE  
GOT THROUGH, BOTH TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT, AND TO  
THE AMERICAN ADVISERS.

" 'A MUCH MORE ACCEPTABLE WAY OF STRENGTHENING LINKS  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE TO ARRANGE FOR VISITS  
OF CONVENTIONAL NAVAL VESSELS, WHERE THE CREWS COULD BE  
WELCOMED WITHOUT HOSTILITY.

" 'I AM IN NO DOUBT THAT THIS VISIT HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY  
ENCOURAGED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. MULDOON, IN AN  
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ATTEMPT TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE SHOCKING  
NEWS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT. I STRONGLY SYMPATHISE WITH  
THOSE WHO WILL BE TAKING PROTEST ACTION WHEN THIS VESSEL  
ARRIVES IN AUCKLAND. BUT I ALSO URGE ALL NEW ZEALANDERS  
NOT TO BE SIDETRACKED FROM THE REAL ISSUES FACING NEW  
ZEALAND.

" 'THE FIGHT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST ABOUT JOBS, DECENT  
HOUSING, ADEQUATE WAGES, AND CONTROLLED INFLATION,' MR.  
ROWLING SAID."

3. I STRONGLY ADVISE CAUTION IN RESPONDING TO ROWLING  
SINCE THE ANTI-NUCLEAR LOBBY IN NEW ZEALAND IS VERY SMALL  
BUT VOCAL AND THE NEWS MEDIA CAPABLE OF CONSIDERABLE  
DISTORTION. THE PINTADO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT  
AUCKLAND ABOUT 1300 LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 16.

4. ROWLING HAS LONG PLAYED A "DOG-IN-THE-MANGER" ROLE  
ON THE ISSUE OF NPW VISITS. DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION  
AS PRIME MINISTER (1974-75), HE KEPT OUR REQUEST FOR AN  
NPW VISIT "UNDER CONSIDERATION," OBVIOUSLY DELAYING A  
DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1975 ELECTION. ONLY

AFTER HE WAS OVERWHELMINGLY TURNED OUT OF OFFICE DID HE  
COME OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST NPW VISITS. SINCE HIS 1976  
VISIT TO THE U.S. WHEN HE CALLED ON THEN-SECRETARY  
KISSINGER, ROWLING HAS PLAYED THE THEME THAT U.S. NPW  
VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND RISK A PUBLIC BACKLASH WHICH COULD  
DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES A LA THE  
VIETNAM ISSUE. HE HAS ALSO EXAGGERATED THE LEVEL OF  
ANTIPATHY TO THE VISITS. ACTUALLY, WHAT LITTLE PUBLIC  
CONCERN THERE ORIGINALLY WAS IS WANING AND EVEN RADICAL  
TRADE UNION ELEMENTS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY GENERATING  
OPPOSITION TO THE PINTADO VISIT. MEANWHILE, ROWLING'S

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4727

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 00181

OWN POPULARITY HAS SLIPPED TO A NEW LOW IN RECENT  
OPINION POLLS. THERE IS, EVEN NOW, TALK THAT HE WILL BE  
REPLACED AS OPPOSITION LEADER FOLLOWING AN EXPECTED  
DEFEAT IN NEXT NOVEMBER'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

5. ROWLING'S CLAIM THAT "SUCH A VISIT HAS NOT BEEN  
NECESSARY FOR OVER A DECADE" REFERS TO THE FACT THAT THE  
LAST U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINE TO CALL IN NEW ZEALAND VISITED  
AUCKLAND IN THE EARLY 1960'S. SINCE THEN, VISITS WERE  
STALLED FIRST BY THE LIABILITY ISSUE WHICH WAS SETTLED  
IN DEC. 1974 THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF P.L. 93-513 AND  
THEN, DURING 1972-75, BY LABOUR PARTY FOOT-DRAGGING.  
AFTER THE MULDOON GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IN JUNE 1976 THAT  
U.S. NPW'S WERE WELCOME IN NZ PORTS, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO  
NPW VISITS AND 19 CALLS BY CONVENTIONALLY-POWERED NAVY  
AND COAST GUARD VESSELS.

6. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON'S BASIC JUSTIFICATION TO THE  
NZ PEOPLE IN JUNE 1976 IN WELCOMING THE VISITS WAS THAT  
NZ COULD NOT HAVE THE DEPENDABLE AND ACTIVE RELATIONSHIP  
WHICH IT WANTS WITH THE U.S. IF IT CONTINUED TO INSIST  
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THAT A LARGE AND GROWING NUMBER OF ITS ALLY'S MOST  
MODERN NAVAL UNITS WERE TO BE BANNED FROM VISITING NZ.  
MULDOON EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS IN NZ'S NATIONAL INTEREST  
THAT THE U.S. SHOULD REMAIN AN ACTIVE FORCE FOR PEACE  
IN NEW ZEALAND'S PART OF THE PACIFIC.

7. ABOVE ALL, I RECOMMEND THAT ANY RESPONSE NOT UNDERCUT  
MULDOON'S RATIONALE. SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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